



FARM NEWS

Reserve

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A2 Ag 827

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AUG 24 1951

October 15, 1948

HOG PRICE SUPPORTS ANNOUNCED THROUGH MARCH:

Hog prices probably won't fall to support levels by next March, but —

just in case they should — the schedule of hog price supports for October-March has been announced by the Department of Agriculture. If hog prices should decline to the support level, the law requires that they would have to be supported through 1949 at 90 percent of parity, J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration committee points out. Supports would be carried out through purchases of pork products or other appropriate action.

Weekly average hog supports for the next 6 months will range from a high of \$17.50 per 100 pounds, Chicago basis, in October and March, when marketings of hogs are seasonally small, to a low of \$15.25 per 100 pounds in December, when marketings are seasonally the largest of the year.

Supports are figured twice a year on the basis of parity prices on March 15 and September 15. The September 15 parity price was \$18.20 per 100 pounds. The average of prices received by farmers on that date was \$27.30 per 100 pounds.

BRANNAN SPEAKS ON SOIL CONSERVATION:

Some of our most important soil-conservation gains cannot be measured in statistics,

Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan pointed out recently.

Commenting that the Agricultural Conservation Program represents real progress but that we must not become over-optimistic, the Secretary said:

"We have finally recognized that economic conditions have a definite influence on the use and misuse of soil. We have recognized that all of us share responsibility for building up and conserving the land. We have recognized that not only conservation payments are right in our democracy but also that they are a tremendously effective aid in getting the job done.

"We have built a great system of administration in which farmers not only carry out a program but also study the needs of the local farms and help develop program improvements."

These three principles were listed by Secretary Brannan as essential to the success of any national conservation program and as a defined and specific measure for the security of the United States.

- (1) Any program should be administered by locally-elected farmer committeemen.
- (2) We should assist and encourage farmers in establishing soil and water conservation practices by means of payments for practices performed.
- (3) We should provide the technical assistance necessary in making complete conservation plans and carrying out complicated practices on farms.

ACP AIDS WILDLIFE: In addition to millions of acres of land saved and improved, the conservation practices carried out by farmers participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program are proving a boon for wildlife, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Stock-water ponds and small irrigation reservoirs constructed under the Program are furnishing over-night stops for ducks in their flights from north to south in the fall and back again in the spring. Ducks soon locate these small bodies of water and use them.

Many of these ponds are being stocked with fish which furnish both sport and food. This is an extra dividend on the investment in conservation. Stocking with fish doesn't interfere with the effectiveness of the dam and pond in conserving soil and water.

Woodlots and windbreaks established under the Program as soil and water conserving practices are furnishing protection and nesting places for game birds. They are adding to the beauty of the countryside. But, the chairman points out, all of these are just extra dividends. The purpose of the practice is to keep soil from washing and blowing away and to hold moisture needed to grow crops.

MAIN STREET AND THE SOIL: Main Street as well as the farmer depends on rich fertile land for health and prosperity, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

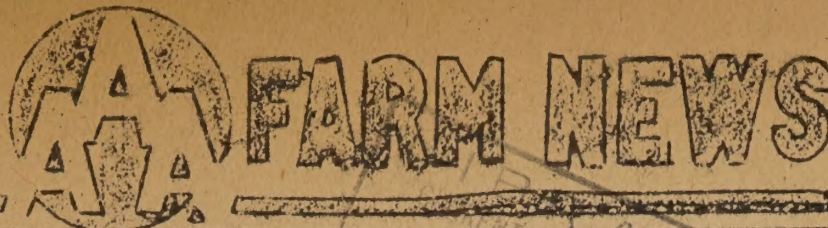
All people, whether in town or on the farm, depend on the land for food and clothing. Poor land doesn't produce enough to feed the farmer and his family and an additional amount to be sold in the grocery stores in town. And, poor land produces poor food.

Poor land and resulting poor crops mean less money for the things the farmer needs. Poor crops mean less money to be spent on Main Street, less for clothing, machinery, homes and home furnishings.

These are some of the reasons, the chairman points out, why the assistance given farmers under the Agricultural Conservation Program means as much to the business men in town as they do to the farmer. This assistance makes it possible and supplies the incentive for farmers to carry out conservation practices which not only keep soil from washing and blowing away but build it up for continuing production.

The 12 years of conservation work under the AC Program helped make possible the record-breaking crop this year, says the chairman. Bigger crops mean more food for health and energy. "Through the Agricultural Conservation Program the Nation is investing in better living for the people in town as well as the farmer."

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1956
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Cap. 2

SERIAL RECORD
AUG 24 1951

October 15, 1948

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1956
A. 249827
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October 22, 1948

CRAWLEY DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT AND AGRICULTURE: Government responsibility in soil and water conservation, research and supporting the price of farm commodities was discussed by William B. Crawley, Assistant Administrator for Production of PMA, at a recent meeting at Monroe, Louisiana.

On conservation Mr. Crawley said that one of the most important jobs of Government in promoting the general welfare is the conservation of our soil and water resources. Since soil is the main source of our food and much of our shelter and clothing, the conservation of the soil is fundamental for continued existence.

Mr. Crawley pointed out that the program of sharing costs of conservation with the farmer under the Agricultural Conservation Program is the most efficient and effective way of getting the job done that has yet been found. He said that it is the responsibility of everyone to help protect the soil just as it is the responsibility of everyone to share in the cost of other forms of National Protection.

Research which furnishes the farmer with improved methods, plants and outlets for what he produces, he indicated, is a means for assuring increasingly effective use of the land and its products.

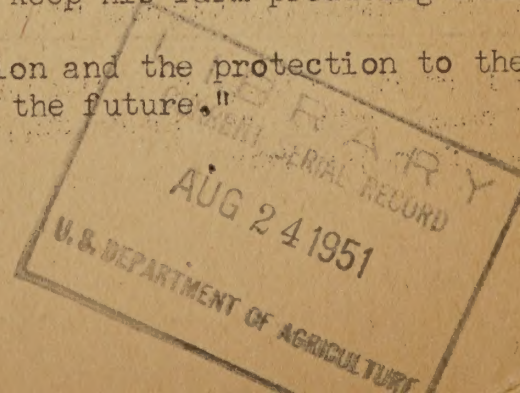
On price supports he said that we cannot expect abundant production if that abundance depresses prices to the point where the farmer is penalized for successful production.

In reply to the criticism that Government price supports for farm products are keeping prices up, he pointed out that many farm commodities are not supported and that most other commodities from the farm are above support price. For those products which are supported the support is 90 percent of parity which is 10 percent below a balance between what a farmer has to sell and what he buys. Cotton is the only exception, currently supported at 92½ percent of parity but this drops to 90 percent in 1949.

He added, "We can lose our freedom by erosion as well as by invasion and we can be brought into economic bondage through ruinous prices."

"Price supports and conservation go hand-in-hand. A stabilized farm market helps to make farming a sound business. With assurance of stability in the market, the farmer can go ahead and build up his land. He isn't forced to mine the soil for a bare existence. With the help of the Agricultural Conservation Program he can carry out the conservation practices needed to keep his farm producing abundantly."

"The Nation benefits from the abundant production and the protection to the soil which assures that same abundant production in the future."



THE 1949 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM: The 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program is open to every farmer in _____ county. Farmers who have a conservation problem on their farms are urged to participate in the Program. Full information is available at the County Agricultural Conservation Office at _____.

_____, Chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee, advises that within the limits of funds available, assistance is available to all farmers who participate in the Program. Conservation practices carried out must meet the requirements for such practices.

It should be understood, says the chairman, that the funds which this county receives for conservation work represents the National interest in conserving soil and water in this county. The county committee is charged with the responsibility of seeing that the funds are used to get maximum conservation for each dollar spent.

The conservation practices which have been approved for national use in conserving soil and water have been drawn up by the county committees, State PMA Committees, State Technical Committees and the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch in Washington, D. C. County practices have been selected and adapted by community and county committeemen.

Assistance under the Program is intended to encourage additional conservation and not to help farmers with customary operations, Mr. _____ states.

LOVELAND SHOWS IMPORTANCE OF PRICE SUPPORT: It's the Nation's business - the Government's business - to help farmers keep their land productive and if farmers are to conserve their land, the farm program must be maintained to keep prices from dropping to the point where farmers cannot make a living let alone conserve the land, Albert J. Loveland, Under Secretary of Agriculture, said recently at a corn storage demonstration meeting at Clarion, Iowa.

Mr. Loveland recalled conditions when farmers had no price support programs and a big crop meant real trouble for the farmer. He pointed out that on June 29 of this year the price of No. 2 yellow corn at Chicago was \$2.30 a bushel. Three months later it was \$1.61.

"Yes, the drop was bad enough and it hurt, but it came to a stop," said Mr. Loveland, because "today we've got a corn loan program. We don't have to dump our corn on the market. We don't have to take whatever is offered as long as we have the right kind of storage -- right on the farm.

"Both the conservation and price support programs are programs for the Nation. Careless talk about payments to farmers as though this whole fundamental effort were merely a "slick scheme" to pay farmers a subsidy is tiresome...."

He stated that "loose charges" that farmers are being ordered around by "bureaucrats" are without foundation. On the other hand, "There were plenty of people telling farmers what to do when corn was down to 15 cents."

He warned against efforts to blame the farmer for high retail prices and the current proposals to lower 1949 price-support levels, charging that these suggestions "stemmed from the same sources that were against the farm program from the beginning.

He urged farmers to help give the public a better understanding of the real purposes of conservation and price supports and to see that farmers continue to administer farm programs.



FARM NEWS

Reserve

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A 2 Ag 827

November 12, 1948

ACP DIVIDENDS: Reserves of fertility in the soil for future abundant production as well as reserves of food and feed in bins, cribs, warehouses and grocery shelves are dividends on the investment the Nation is making in soil and water conservation, chairman J. E. Kasper of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee states.

Through cooperating with farmers in carrying out conservation practices, the Nation is building strength in the land that assures continued abundant production. Resistance to erosion built into the land through green manure, phosphate, pasture improvements and similar practices, not only will protect the land against erosion but will strengthen its productive capacity to meet the needs of an increasing population.

It is more than just holding the soil for a "sustained production," the chairman points out, "it is building on what we have for greater production in the future. Only by increasing the productivity of our land can we meet the needs of a population that has increased 13 million since 1940."

He points out that when the Nation cooperates with a farmer by sharing the cost of conservation practices, as it is doing through the Agricultural Conservation Program, the people have added assurance that there will be plenty of food for a good living in the future.

"Full bins at the beginning of World War II and an abundance of food since the war are evidence that the investment in conservation is paying off," the chairman says. "The abundant harvests of recent years were due in large measure to favorable weather and other factors but the conservation work has helped make that abundance possible."

"The conservation work done by farmers under the program for the past 12 years will continue to return dividends. Continued conservation effort will assure continued strengthening of the soil and assurance of continued abundant production."

U. S. FACES PROBLEMS EXPORTING POTATOES: The U. S. potato industry faces many problems in building a seed potato market in Europe, says a recent Department of Agriculture report. The report is based on research studies exploring the possibility of broadening foreign markets for farm products.

Before the war, exports of potatoes from the U. S. were negligible. As a result of food shortages following the war, however, European countries were shipped significant quantities of potatoes by this country. During the past three seasons, 1946-47 to 1947-48, potato exports to Europe totaled 2.5 million, 9.3 million, and 8.4 million bushels, respectively.

Some of the problems U.S. potato exporters must face, according to the report, are:

- (1) Europe is fast returning to self-sufficiency in potato production;
- (2) Seed potatoes from the U.S. are barred from some European countries because of the Colorado potato beetle and ring rot;
- (3) Europeans prefer eating the yellow-fleshed varieties of potatoes, and use white-fleshed potatoes mainly for industrial purposes;
- (4) U.S. exporters must pay heavy rail and ocean transportation charges, because potatoes are bulky.

SEE YOUR COMMITTEEMAN: "For further information, see your Agricultural Conservation Association committeeman," has become an often repeated slogan. J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee explains who the "committeeman" is.

In about 30 thousand communities in the United States elections have been held during the past several weeks. In these elections farmers vote for their neighbor farmers to represent them in administering the Agricultural Conservation Program and related farm programs. The Agricultural Conservation Program helps farmers carry out soil and water conservation practices as a protection to the Nation's present and future food and fiber supply.

These elected community and county committeemen, nearly 100,000 in number, have in large measure furnished the leadership for State PMA Committees and National Administrators. Through these elected committees the door has been open for farmers to move up into administrative positions in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The immediate past and present Under Secretaries of Agriculture came up through the elected farmer committee system. N. E. Dodd, former Under Secretary of Agriculture and now head of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, started as a committeeman in Oregon. Albert J. Loveland, present Under Secretary of Agriculture, began as an elected community committeeman in Iowa.

SCIENCE WIDENS FARM PRODUCTS HORIZONS: Science is fast broadening the usefulness of products farmers grow and market, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recently pointed out.

Calling attention to the benefits accruing both to farmers and the rest of humanity as a result of funds invested in farm research, the Secretary described how products originating on farms are increasingly assuming an important place as the source of drugs which destroy microbes and germs, alleviate human suffering and save lives.

Best known of these newer drugs, perhaps, is penicillin which, while not strictly a farm product, is a laboratory by-product of farm products. Discovered by an Englishman, Sir Alexander Fleming, in 1929, penicillin's usefulness in combating infection is unrivaled. The drug was not produced in enough volume until World War II. Then scientists of the Department of Agriculture's Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria, Illinois, developed a process of propagating molds in deep tanks on a nutritious diet of corn-steep liquor and milk sugar.

The process was adaptable to commercial production, and today about a dozen pharmaceutical houses are producing penicillin. The current rate of production is about 125,000 times larger than in the first 6 months of 1943. At the same time, the price of 100,000 units has been reduced from \$20 to less than \$1. Value of the penicillin output is \$150 million a year.

Other new drugs which offer promise in relieving human suffering are subtilin — product of waste juices from commercial processing of asparagus, citrus, and pears; and usnic acid — derived from Spanish moss. Both show signs of being useful in treating pulmonary tuberculosis.

Tomatin, from the tomato plant, is being used in treating human diseases of fungi origin, such as athlete's foot. Bolymyxin — also a product of culturing mold and the outgrowth of the Agriculture Department's wartime research in synthetic rubber, is being used in experiments in treating Bang's disease in cattle, and may benefit human health by eliminating a source of undulant fever. Streptomycin — isolated at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in the course of prolonged research in the micro-organisms of the soil — is an accomplished fact in combating microbes and germs.

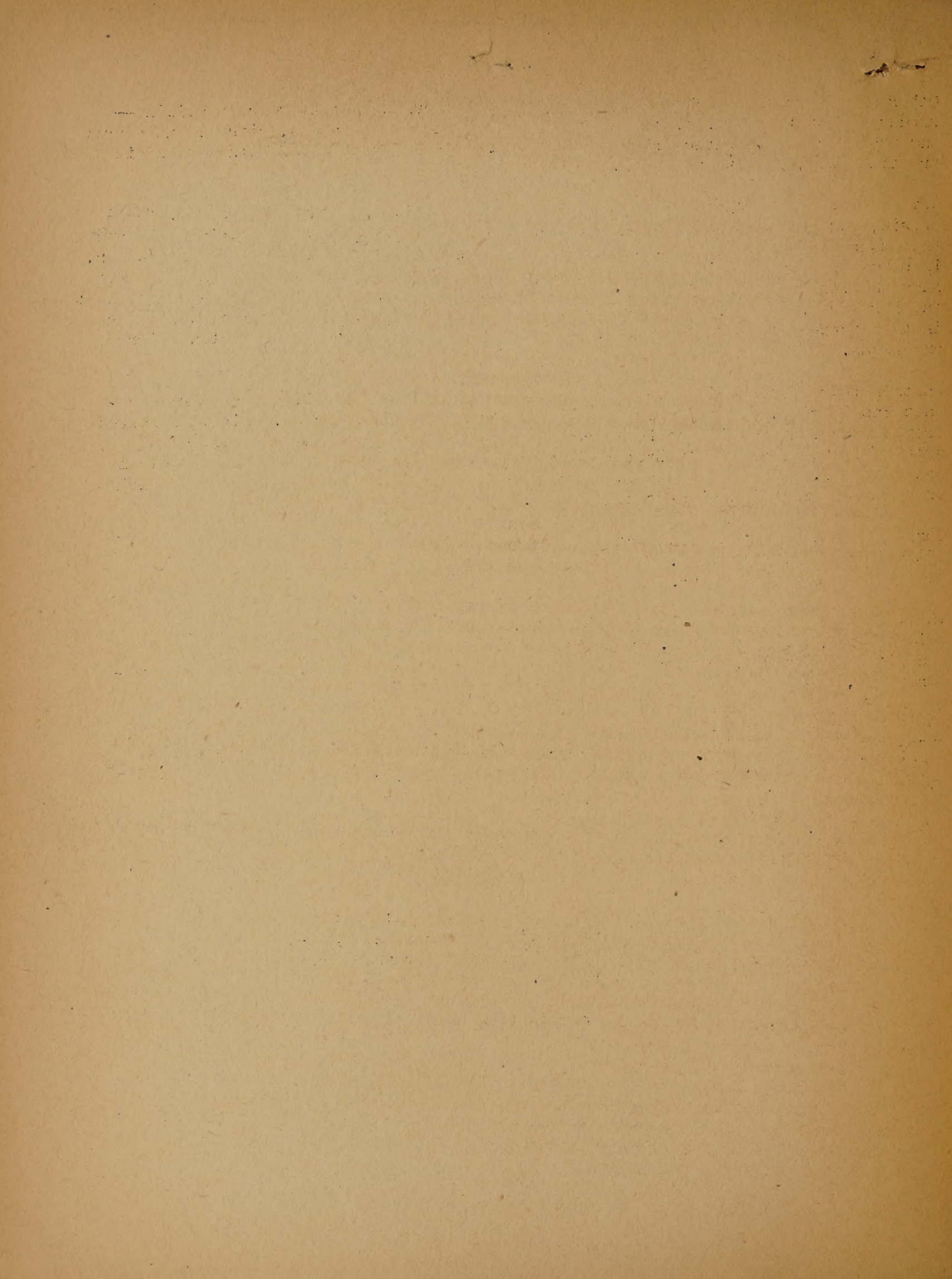
Another drug of recognized value is rutin, which has the ability to restore weakened capillaries, and may have added benefits now only suspected. First extracted from tobacco, it now is obtained from green buckwheat plants as a result of a search by the Department's Eastern Regional Laboratory to find a more economical raw material. Green buckwheat was found to contain about ten times as much rutin as the more expensive high-grade tobacco.

Today the drug is being manufactured by about 14 firms, whose output is valued at 150 million dollars a year. To farmers, the returns from buckwheat so used amount to about \$2 million a year.

These drugs are all dramatic examples of how funds invested in farm research has paid off handsome dividends. Less apparent, but just as real and dramatic are the benefits accruing from other investments in the public welfare, such as soil conservation.

In the prevention of floods alone, the soil practices farmers carry out on their farms have an almost incalculable value. By holding the topsoil in place and preventing its erosion, more and better crops are produced. Practices which check the flow of water, each year help avoid the danger of widespread floods which might cause the loss of many lives and the destruction of real property costing many millions.

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FARM NEWS

November 19, 1948

PRICE STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION: Plenty of food for everyone is the objective of both the price support and conservation programs administered by elected-farmer-committees, says _____ chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

"And as far as production is concerned the programs are paying off," the chairman said. "Farmers are producing the greatest crops in history and progress is being made in protecting the soil for future abundant production."

Price support -- or price stabilization -- programs aid the work being done to protect the land from erosion and depletion. The first step in conservation, Mr. _____ explains, is protecting the farmer and his family against ruinously low prices. "Price supports put a floor under commodity prices and keep them from going down so low as to put the farmer out of business. With that protection the farmer can go ahead with his program of agricultural conservation and abundant production."

"It gives meaning to the conservation work he carries out on his farm. Stability in the farming business encourages better care of the land through conservation practices which control erosion and build the land for greater production."

"Price supports and conservation, being thus closely related, are administered by the same elected farmer-committees. Loans and other price stabilizing programs with soil and water conservation fit into the pattern of greater security for the Nation."

PASTURE IMPROVEMENT STRESSED FOR 1949: Calling attention to the possibilities of increased food production from better pastures, _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, says that too often the pasture is the "most neglected" part of the farm.

Under the Agricultural Conservation Program there are a number of practices for pasture improvement. In _____ county there are _____ (list practices) .

Mr. _____ said that the purpose of the Agricultural Conservation Program is to keep up the productivity of the land. Too often the pasture is looked upon as just a part of the farm where crops cannot be grown. Yet in many instances pastures could be improved until they become some of the more productive acres of the farm.

Good pasture management includes proper stocking of the area. Where the pasture is overstocked, something must be done to restore lost fertility or to keep palatable grasses and clovers coming along with a good vigorous growth.

A pasture that is overworked and weak doesn't offer the protection needed to keep the land from eroding. To be a part of the protective bulwark against erosion, a pasture must be kept up.

The chairman urges that farmers keep the pasture in mind when they make their plans for cooperation in the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program. Details about 1949 practices may be obtained at the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Program office, located at _____.

USDA CALLS FOR EGG QUALITY CONSERVATION: To help offset the spread in prices for high and low quality eggs, the Department of Agriculture is asking farmers to join with handlers and consumers in conserving the quality of eggs. Careful conservation of quality is also expected to make up for the somewhat smaller egg production during the rest of 1948.

At the farm, these steps are recommended to be taken: (1) Further efforts to produce clean eggs, (2) more frequent collection of eggs each day, (3) immediate cooling of eggs after collection and before packing, (4) temporary farm storage under proper temperature and moisture conditions, (5) frequent marketing by farmers and country buyers. Other recommended measures include candling for quality, and holding eggs under refrigeration at all times after they are packed in cartons or cases.

Officials point out that without these efforts, the usual rate of quality loss in eggs will mean that thousands of dozens will be unfit for food.

CONSERVATION MORE THAN GULLY-FILLING: Conservation of soil and water under the Agricultural Conservation Program is much more than just putting dams across gullies to keep them from getting bigger. According to _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, conservation under the AC Program is aimed at holding soil, keeping it productive, controlling excess water and making the most efficient use of water where irrigation is necessary. "It is a simple matter just to save soil, but repairing damage and improving the soil while maintaining and increasing production is the important problem and the objective of the program."

Gullies, he points out, are just one indication of erosion, or of land that is going out of production. Often hundreds of tons of topsoil have been removed from a field before a gully starts. And usually sheet erosion results from loss of organic matter in the soil.

The Agricultural Conservation Program has in it provisions for healing gullies and practices to keep them from getting bigger but more important are the practices which prevent gullies -- which keep the land in condition so that the heavy erosion doesn't start.

The chairman mentions some of the practices stressed by the program: Farming on the contour or across the slopes instead of up and down, cover and green manure crops, the use of phosphate to increase the growth of grass and legumes, the seeding of grasses and legumes, and practices which encourage increased vegetative cover.

"But cultivated crops are necessary, too," the chairman points out. "Conservation practices under the Program are designed to help keep erosion and depletion at a minimum while the land is being used for the production of the needed food, feed and fiber crops."

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FARM NEWS

November 26, 1948

THAT WE MAY EAT: This year the Government is helping upwards of 3 million farmers carry out soil and water conservation practices on their farms. These practices include construction of terraces and contour farming which provide barriers to the rapid flow of runoff water. By checking and spreading the water, more of it soaks into the ground and gullies are prevented.

Other practices are the seeding of grasses and legumes to hold the soil and restore humus, and applying lime and phosphate to make the grass and legumes grow better.

In general, farmers carry out practices which meet the conservation needs of their farms and of the area in which they live.

The main purpose of all this activity and this program of soil and water conservation, according to _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, is abundant production -- "not just for this year or next but for all the future.

"The amount of soil from which all people in the country must obtain food and fiber is limited. Population is increasing. Enough food for the future depends on keeping the limited land we have productive. If it washes or blows away or wears out and becomes unproductive that means just that much less land from which the food and fiber must come."

"So," says Mr. _____, "the next time you see a farmer applying phosphate, building a dam or seeding grasses or legumes, you can put it down that this means something to all of us. The soil and water conserved through these and similar practices will go a long way to make sure there will be enough to eat."

PASTURE FOR POULTRY: Poultrymen are finding that pasture is as good for their flocks as it is for their land, in the opinion of J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the North Dakota State Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

In one experiment in the University of Tennessee it was found that pullets raised in dry lots produced an average of $8\frac{1}{2}$ dozen eggs a year. Another group raised on grass pasture produced an average of 13 dozen eggs. The estimated value of the pasture was \$90 or more an acre.

THANKSGIVING FOR BOUNTIFUL HARVEST: With Thanksgiving just around the corner, consumers all over the Nation can give thanks for this year's fruitful efforts of farmers. Harvest of the greatest outturn of farm crops in the history of our country is proceeding rapidly toward completion.

Feed grains and oilseeds were produced this year in record volume, food grains are second only to last year's record, and truck crops and fruits are well above average.

With corn leading the way, the total volume of all 1948 crops has increased over previous record prospects to 37 percent more than the 1923-32 average. This is 11 percent above the previous high mark set in 1946.

Outturns of corn, cotton, soybeans, sorghum grain, rice, buckwheat, dry beans, potatoes, tobacco, broomcorn, and cranberries are estimated higher now than a month ago.

For most commodities, yields per acre in 1948 are above average; of principal crops, only rice, dry peas, and peanuts are below average. Highest yields of record are estimated for corn, cotton, soybeans, potatoes, and dry beans.

GOOD MANAGEMENT AGRICULTURE'S NEED, SAYS BRANNAN: From now on, agriculture must do a better job of managing, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recently told a group of Land Grant College representatives. While the agricultural revolution through which farmers are passing puts a new era of better living within our reach, the Secretary warned that it also stirs up the "rumbling volcano or surplus -- a volcano that always threatens to erupt and engulf us in its smothering, spreading flow."

Farmers in this country are now producing about a third more than in the years just before the war. So, although population has increased rapidly and we thus have less cropland per capita, we are actually producing from 10 to 15 percent more per capita. And production is still on the upward trend because of increased mechanization, improved varieties of crops and livestock, more effective insect and disease control, and soil-conserving practices.

Secretary Brannan pointed out, however, that we are coming to the end of the period of unlimited demand, and mentioned cotton, wheat, potatoes, eggs, and oil crops as those for which trouble might develop.

On the other hand, the Secretary said, we need more milk, meat, fruits and vegetables to meet the wants of our people, the nutritional requirements of our Nation, the goal of soil conservation and soil building, and as a means of avoiding surpluses of grains and fiber.

"The extent to which we can shift our production toward meeting our needs will depend on the prosperity of town and city people," Secretary Brannan reminded his audience. "The farmer's customers must have jobs and fair wages if they are to buy the kinds of food they want and need and if they are to support the kind of agriculture that our Nation needs."

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December 3, 1948

ELECTED COMMITTEEMEN -- INFLUENCE FOR GOOD FARMING: The recently elected farmer committeemen who will administer the 1949 Agricultural Conservation and related programs in counties and communities will take office January 1, J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota State PMA committee announces.

A total of 1305 committeemen have been elected this year to administer the 1949 farm programs in North Dakota. This includes 159 county committeemen and 1146 community committeemen.

According to Mr. Kasper, these farmers who have been elected by their neighbors will administer the Agricultural Conservation Program and supporting activities in the counties. Through the conservation program they are key figures in the nation's efforts to encourage soil and water conservation to maintain current and future production.

They are in key positions to pass soil and water conservation methods along to their fellow farmers. They are familiar with both the conservation and production problems in local areas and therefore are in a position to help farmers adapt the Agricultural Conservation Program to local needs. They have available both the technical knowledge from agronomists and soil specialists and the practical understanding from their experience in farming.

STEWARDS OF THE SOIL: Increasing population emphasizes the farmer's stewardship of the land he operates, says _____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee. Whether the operator is owner, renter or share-cropper, he has a responsibility to the Nation to do his best to keep the land productive.

The food and much of the clothing along with many other essential products for an increasing population must come from the soil, the chairman states. And the soil from which they come is limited. "Only by holding the soil we have, maintaining its fertility and, wherever we can, increasing its productive capacity, can we meet the needs and demands of more and more people."

The primary purpose of the Agricultural Conservation Program, says the chairman, is to help farmers hold and build up the productiveness of their land. Through the Program, farmers are helped in carrying out the conservation practices which cut down erosion and put the land in better condition for continued production.

"Every farmer, whether or not he cooperates in the Agricultural Conservation Program, has a responsibility to the country to farm in such a way that his land will be kept productive. And the Nation's consumers have an equal responsibility to help conserve the soil -- our most important National resource. Through the AC Program, the farmers and consumers cooperate in carrying out this responsibility."

"What happens to our soil is the concern of every man, woman and child in the country but upon the shoulders of the farmers who operate the land rests the direct responsibility. By working together -- consumers assisting the farmers through the Agricultural Conservation Program -- we can build up the soil and keep it productive."

POTATO GOAL DOWN FOR 1949: A 1949 potato goal of 1,939,800 acres and a 60 percent of parity price support has been announced for 1949 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The goal is about 200,000 acres less than the acreage planted in 1948. The support price is based upon provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1948.

The 1948 potato crop was supported at 90 percent of parity.

The total national goal for 1949 includes 1,223,100 acres for commercial production and 717,200 acres for non-commercial production of less than three acres per farm. The commercial figure will be broken down for states as a basis for county and individual farm goals within states.

Growers who conform to their 1949 goal figure will be eligible for 60 percent of parity-loans.

The consumption of potatoes has dropped from 150 pounds per capita immediately after World War I to 127 pounds in 1946 and is currently estimated at the rate of 118 pounds per capita.

The 1949 goals for states are based upon 1943-47 acreages after percentage reductions for "excess acres" in 1946 and 1947 and for government purchases of surplus potatoes in each state.

In 1948 the goal was 2,352,000 acres. The acreage planted was 2,137,000 acres, well below the goal but high yields resulted in a crop of 431,000,000 bushels.

It is expected that about 350,000 bushels of the 1948 crop will move through normal marketing channels during the marketing year. The excess potatoes are largely being converted to alcohol and used for livestock feed.

The 90 percent of parity figure at which the 1948 crop is being supported is approximately 70 cents a hundred higher than in 1946. Handling and diversion costs also have increased. Approximately 63½ million bushels of the 1948 crop had been diverted by November 15.

CROOKED ROWS GROW MORE CORN: _____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee, says he isn't sure just how much crooked rows contributed to the abundant harvest this year but that he is sure farmers are growing bigger crops by running their rows on the contour instead of up and down the slope.

The old jest that "more corn grows in a crooked row than a straight one" is literally true if the row is crooked because it is on the contour.

More and more farmers are realizing that soil and soil fertility as well as water needed to grow crops are saved by contour farming.

Under the Agricultural Conservation Program, farmers are assisted in getting their crops seeded on the contour. A part of the expense of contour farming is covered on a "share-the-cost" basis by assistance provided through the program.

The chairman urges farmers of _____ county who are farming sloping land that is subject to water erosion to farm on the contour. The drill rows and furrows on the contour check the run-off and help to hold both soil and water on the land where it is needed to produce crops.

He said that assistance under the ACP program is available for starting the contouring and for seeding both close drilled and inter-tilled crops. He points out that land so farmed is protected against erosion and usually becomes more productive.

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FARM NEWS

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December 17, 1948

NATIONAL PMA CONFERENCE: Conservation and price supports were major topics at the National Production and Marketing Administration conference held at St. Louis, Missouri, December 6 - 9, J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the North Dakota PMA Committee reports. Other representatives from North Dakota at the conference were: John Bruns, Committee member, Oscar M. Clarin, Committee member, and A. M. Schmit, Farmer Fieldman.

Speakers included Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan, Under Secretary of Agriculture Albert J. Loveland and PMA Administrator Ralph S. Trigg. The chairman reports that discussions on 1949 plans centered on three main points.

1. The effectiveness of financial assistance to farmers under the Agricultural Conservation Program in getting vitally needed soil and water conservation.
2. Price supports to assure abundant production and to protect farmers against price collapse.
3. The farm leadership being developed in the elected farmer committees which administer PMA programs at the county and community levels.

At the conference were PMA Committeemen and representatives from each of the 48 states and from Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

1949 FOOD PICTURE: Food consumption per capita in the U.S. next year probably will not change much from the 1948 average, which is 12 percent above prewar, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports. Whereas consumption of food per person in 1948 has been at a lower rate than in 1947, food prices have averaged about 10 percent higher.

No significant weakening in either domestic or foreign demand for food appears likely, so retail food prices are expected to continue high through most of 1949. Food prices may decline in the latter part of the year as a result of expected increases in livestock products.

While European food production this year is materially higher than in 1947, in many areas it is still low relative to prewar and to population increases. The over-all export demand for American foods is not expected to show much if any decline, but less emphasis will be put on grains.

A SOIL LESSON FROM SWEDEN: "We must save our land to save our country."

That is the lesson that impressed itself on the mind of a 4-H member of the International Farm Youth exchange who spent 2 months on a farm in Sweden during the past summer.

The youth, Armin Samuelson of Topeka, Kansas, came back with the deep impression that the Europeans can give the American farmer several good lessons in crop rotations and the handling of the soil.

He reported that in Denmark he saw wheat fields that made 100 to 120 bushels of wheat to the acre. There the soils are tested and as much as 800 to 900 pounds of nitrate fertilizers are applied to the acre.

In line with the objectives of the U. S. Agricultural Conservation Program, the 4-H boy reports that farmers of the European countries visited have learned how to maintain abundant production and at the same time save their soil.

U.S., CANADA ENTER POTATO AGREEMENT: Canada's prompt and effective cooperation in recently entering into a potato agreement with the United States provides another instance of the two countries' readiness to take joint action in meeting problems of mutual concern. The agreement recognizes the adverse effect of unrestricted imports of Canadian potatoes on U.S. potato programs.

Under the potato agreement, there will be no further exports of table stock potatoes to the United States, and the program will seek to channel exports of certified seed potatoes to the U. S. into seed outlets only.

The Canadian Government will issue to their shippers export permits for seed potatoes designed to direct shipment into those States where there has been a traditional demand for certified seed potatoes, and only during a short period immediately preceding the normal planting date. Canadian exporters will be required to prove that they have firm orders from bona fide users of Canadian seed potatoes in the U. S. and that their sales contracts contain a clause restraining the buyers from diverting the potatoes to other destinations or uses.

The U. S. indicates that it will not hereafter impose any quantitative limitation or fees on the 1948 crop of Canadian potatoes.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AUG 24 1951

December 24, 1948

NO CCC LOANS OR PURCHASE AGREEMENTS AFTER DECEMBER 31: December 31, 1948 is the last day on which producers may take out Commodity Credit Corporation loans or purchase agreements to assure themselves of support prices for 1948 grain crops. The volume of grain that is covered by either loans or purchase agreements in 1948 is considerably larger than it has been for the past few years. _____, Chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee urges farmers to give serious thought to placing a price floor under their 1948 grain crops by coming in to the County Office before January 1, and taking out a loan or purchase agreement under the price support program.

REPORTING PRACTICES UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Practices carried out under the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program must be reported on the proper forms to the County Agricultural Conservation Committee on or before January 15, 1949 in order for the practices to be eligible for payment. After carrying out practices, it is the responsibility of the farmer to report such practices in order to qualify for payment under the program. January 15 is the last day for making this report.

CRAWLEY URGES EROSION PREVENTION AS WELL AS CURE: Keep the land strong so that it will resist and prevent erosion before erosion has a chance to get started, urged William B. Crawley, Assistant Administrator for Production, PMA, in an address before the recent National PMA Conference at St. Louis.

"Maybe it's time we emphasized the need to keep our good land good, as well as to make our poor land better," he said.

"You see, it 's more than just restoring land to its primeval condition. It's not just conserving the soil just to conserve the soil -- to maintain the soil in some static condition. We've got some 145 million people in this country that are depending on the land for something to eat and there are nearly 6 million farmers depending on it for a living for themselves and their families. There will be a lot more people in another 20 or 30 years. That's our problem -- the Nation's problem -- to keep that land producing so there will be enough food and fiber -- and to keep our farmers on the land. A part of the job is to keep the land from washing and blowing away but a bigger part is to keep our land healthy and strong so it will keep on producing.

"We need to do all we can to keep the gullies from starting -- by encouraging practices which build resistance to erosion -- by plowing under green manure, adding humus -- establishing sod where necessary.

"More prevention -- not necessarily less cure."

"He added that it is his belief that the administration of the Agricultural Conservation Program -- which reaches farmers in every agricultural county in the Nation -- is a sacred trust having to do with the health and well-being of the Nation's people -- "to control erosion yes, but more than that to build into the soil resistance to erosion by keeping up its productivity -- by keeping it strong."

WORLD WHEAT OUTPUT INCREASES: World wheat production this year is placed at 6,285 million bushels, a little larger than average and considerably above the small 1947 harvest. The rye production estimate of 1,625 million bushels is below average, though about 10 percent larger than last year.

Estimates of world breadgrain production in 1948 are now about 35 million bushels larger than the September forecast, principally because of upward revisions in estimates for some European countries, especially for France, and improved prospects for the Australian harvest.

South America's wheat harvest, now beginning, is predicted at 245 million bushels. The forecast of 180 million bushels of wheat for Argentina is below average and a sharp reduction from last year's outturn of 250 million bushels; damage from recent frosts has been reported for some areas of the country.

Australia's wheat crop is now forecast at about 185 million bushels, compared with that country's record 1947 crop of 220 million bushels.

Canada's wheat crop is forecast at 393 million bushels, and the United States' at 1.3 billion bushels.

ALL FARMERS MAY COOPERATE IN ACP: All farmers of _____ county have an opportunity to cooperate in the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program, says _____, chairman of the county ACP committee. The program will be used to meet the most urgently needed soil and water conservation without favor to any class or group of farmers.

The farmers who cooperate in the program will be required to match the assistance provided under ACP with labor, money and experience. This program is a means of cooperation between the Government - representing all of the people in the country - and the farmer. Through the ACP, the Government helps to share the cost of approved and needed soil and water conservation practices.

According to _____, this program, based on conservation practices approved by each state's foremost technicians as well as practical farmers, is proving the most effective and economical way for the Nation to obtain vitally needed conservation.

Mr. _____ said that the program is for all farmers - and all farmers are urged to take advantage of this nation-wide effort to conserve the soil. The first step is to contact a farmer committeeman or visit the county office for information on conservation practices being stressed in the local area.

Looking back on accomplishments of farmers who have cooperated in the program, Mr. _____ said farmers can be proud of what has been done. They are helping the Nation protect its most valuable natural resource, safeguarding the food supply, and helping to make a stronger and healthier Nation. And they are paving the way for more widespread effort that still must be made.

By cooperating in this program they have worked for the welfare of the Nation and at the same time have made a better farm for themselves and for those who take over after they leave.

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